

1. (Amended) An electronic card comprising a permanent memory in which there are stored dynamic characteristics of the signature of a holder of the card, an area for receiving a signature to be authenticated, processing means for supplying dynamic characteristics of the signature to be authenticated, means for comparing the dynamic characteristics of the signature to be authenticated with the characteristics recorded in the permanent memory in order to produce a validation signal, a temporary memory for storing at least one of the dynamic characteristics of the signature to be authenticated and the validation signal supplied by the comparison means, and means for powering the processing means and/or the comparison means independently of a reader intended to read information from the card.

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2. (Amended) A card according to Claim 1, including a receiving antenna for powering the processing means and/or the comparison means in the card.

3. (Amended) A card according to Claim 1, including an internal energy source for powering the processing means and/or the comparison means .

4. (Amended) A card according to Claim 3, wherein the power source is of the piezoelectric and/or pyroelectric type.

5. (Amended) A card according to Claim 4, including at least one piezoelectric sheet for detecting the dynamic characteristics of the signature to be authenticated, wherein

said piezoelectric sheet is also used for producing the electrical energy necessary for powering said processing means and/or comparison means.

6. (Amended) A card according to claim 1, wherein the period of storage in the temporary memory of the dynamic characteristics to be authenticated or of the validation signal is at most about one minute.

7. (Amended) A card according to claim 1, wherein said card includes contacts, and the signature area for authentication is distinct from the area of the contacts.

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8. (Amended) A card according to claim 1, wherein the signature area has a piezoelectric sheet covered with parallel conductive lines on one face and parallel conductive lines on the other face, with the lines on the two faces being oriented in different directions, and one of the dynamic characteristics comprises the writing pressure at selected points.

9. (Amended) A card according to claim 1, wherein the signature area has two superposed piezoelectric sheets, the upper face of an upper sheet having a set of parallel conductive lines and the lower face of a lower sheet also having a set of lines parallel to one another but in a different direction relative to the conductive lines of the upper sheet, and, in each of these sets of parallel lines, lines of even rank are connected to a first terminal and lines of odd rank are connected to a second terminal.

10. (Amended) A card according to claim 1, wherein the signature area has two sheets, each of which has parallel conductive lines oriented in different respective directions, that come into contact with one another at the location of a writing stylus.

11. (Amended) A card according to claim 1, further including means for inhibiting at least one function performed within the card, this inhibiting being the result of the comparison between the dynamic characteristics of the signature to be authenticated and the characteristics recorded in permanent memory.

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12. (Amended) A device intended for use with a card according to Claim 2, comprising a transmitting antenna for powering the receiving antenna of the card, and a support.

13. (Amended) A circuit for an electronic card, comprising a permanent memory for storing dynamic characteristics of the signature of the holder, processing means having inputs for signals representing a signature and supplying dynamic characteristics of a signature to be authenticated, means for comparing the dynamic characteristics of the signature to be authenticated with the characteristics recorded in permanent memory in order to produce a validation signal, a temporary memory for at least one of the dynamic characteristics of the signature to be authenticated and the validation signal supplied by the comparison means, and means for powering the processing means